

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of remarks to follow is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are pending in this application of which Claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 18 are independent claims. Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,418 to Yacenda ("Yacenda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,031,228 to Lu ("Lu"). This rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

The present application discloses a phone router system that is operative to capture images of persons, identify persons based on the captured images, identify respective regions each associated with the identified persons, and automatically reroute an incoming call to the identified location associated with a called party corresponding to one of the identified persons based on the identified region.

Claim 1 has been slightly amended to recite, among others, the following:

"the control unit processing the images to identify ...
respective regions associated with the identified known
persons and, ...

the control unit being operative to automatically route an
incoming call to at least one of the identified known persons at
a telephone extension based on the respective identified region
without an input by a caller."

The Examiner acknowledges that Yacenda "does not teach the use of images to identify known person from the processed image." OA, page 2, paragraph 4.

To remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Yacenda, the Examiner cites Lu. Lu suggests using a system operable to identify a person or persons constituting a viewing audience in a **monitored** location. The system of Lu is used "for determining the viewing habits of the public." Lu, col. 2, lines 5-8. **Lu does not teach that data including captured image and sent to a processing center contains the identification of the location where the image were captured.** The information regarding the location is not essential to Lu. A person identified from a captured image may be at home, which is monitored, but the same person may be watching TV at a **monitored** location.

different from the person's home. What is important for Lu's teaching is that the identified person is associated with a certain TV program. Whether the person watches, for example, a classical music channel in one or another monitored location makes no difference for the system taught by Lu.

The fact that the location is not essential to Lu plays a significant role in a combination of Yacenda and Lu. If the image recognition system of Lu was incorporated in Yacenda, data received by a central processing unit, as taught by the latter, would be able to identify a person based on the captured images. **But this data would not have information regarding the location where the image was captured,** since Lu does not suggest associating the person with the location or identifying the person based on the location, as recited by Claim 1. Incorporation of Lu's teaching in Yacenda, thus, excludes the possibility of transmitting a location associated with the identified called party, since the transmitter of Yacenda must be replaced with the transmitter of Lu. Accordingly, a combination of the recited references is improper and cannot not render Claim 1, as recited, obvious.

Furthermore, Claim 1, as amended, recites that "the control unit being operative to automatically route an incoming call ... without an input by a caller."

Yacenda teaches that a calling party can be automatically connected only to the extension assigned to the searched party. However, if the searched party is at a different location, the system necessarily requests that the caller select among multiple options including connecting to the location where the searched party has been identified. "The location information is then forwarded to the calling telephone (party) **for display**... The caller may select display functions such as "track" and "audit." Neither of these nodes allows for automatically routing the incoming call to the searched party. Yacenda, col. 14, lines 13-47.

Lu is, of course, does not remedy the drawback of Yacenda, as discussed above. Accordingly, the cited combination would NOT yield a structure as recited by claim 1 for the above discussed reasons. Withdrawal and reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 are in order.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1 and benefit from its patentability.

Independent Claim 9 has been amended to recite at least some of the limitations discussed in reference to Claim 1 and is patentable over a combination of cited references.

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to recite the inventive subject matter in clearer terms and include limitations substantially similar to at least some of the limitations of Claim 1 as discussed above. Accordingly, Claim 10 and Claims 11-16 depending from Claim 10 are patentable over the Yacenda/Lu combination.

Claim 17 has been amended to positively recite "identifying each of the number of regions in association with the persons detected from the captured images" and based on the discussion related to Claim 1, is unobvious in view of the Yacenda/Lu combination.

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yacenda in view of Lu and further in view of EP0905956 to Griffith.

The Examiner is correct that Yacenda teaches red-directing incoming calls, but redirecting is prompted by a caller. In contrast, Claim 18 requires automatic redirecting of an in-coming call without an input by a caller. Accordingly, Griffith does not remedy the drawbacks of the cited combination of Yacenda and Lu, and does not render Claim 18 obvious.

Claim 19 depends upon Claim 1 and benefits from its patentability.

The rejection of Claims 18 and 19 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

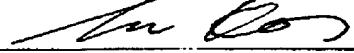
Conclusion

Based on all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in proper condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action to this effect, and early passing of this application to issue, are respectfully urged.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate

reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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